

February Meeting

The St. Louis Bird Club is happy to announce that as guest speaker for our February meeting we will have Dr. Rudolf Bennitt, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of Missouri. Dr. Bennitt is widely known for his work in Missouri as an ornithologist, is author of the University of Missouri Studies' Check-List of the Birds of Missouri, is an authority on wild life in general in Missouri, and recently a Governor Stark appointee as an advisor to the State Wildlife Conservation Commission. Dr. Bennitt will give an account of the wild life research set-up in Missouri and discuss some of the basic problems connected with the bird-life that are being studied in connection with this program, along with some concrete proposals enlisting the cooperation of the St. Louis Bird Club. If you are interested in learning what Missouri stands to gain from our new wild life program or in anything pertaining to wild life in Missouri, here is your golden opportunity. We're expecting a banner turn-out for this address. Will you be there? The place: ~~Jewish Hospital Nurses' Home, 305 S. Kingshighway.~~ The date: Tuesday evening, February 21, at 8:00 P.M. The event: Dr. Rudolf Bennitt addressing the St. Louis Bird Club and guests regarding Wild Life Conservation in Missouri.

Bring A Guest!

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Bring a guest, or guests, to the February meeting. Everybody interested in birds and wild life welcome. Incidentally, a copy of this bulletin is being mailed to each member of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society as a special invitation to "Webster Groves" to be with us the 21st. Cordial invitation. Will you accept?

January Meeting

On January 17, the St. Louis Bird Club organization meeting was held with the following results: Elected as President, Wayne Short; Vice-President, Henry M. Kennon; Secretary, Anne Loftus; Treasurer, Nell Lee Jenkinson. The Board of Directors for the ensuing year consists of the above officers and Miss L. R. Ernst and Mr. Sterling P. Jones. Program for our January meeting was the showing of bird slides from the Biological Survey.

The Forestry Service Cooperates

A recent interview with Mr. Paul Kelleter, Supervisor of Forestry in this region, reveals his and the U. S. Forestry Service's interest in birds. A reforestation program, begun in 1933, is beginning to show results. In the Southeast Missouri region there are now four refuges owned by the government, containing eight to thirteen thousand acres each, and in its four units the Forestry Service controls an enormous acreage, one unit alone involving a gross area of 1,971,818 acres. Food patches for Wild Turkey are being set aside. Redbud trees are set out to provide bird food. Wild rice has been planted in several ponds. Small ridge ponds for game are being constructed with CCC help and although not large are good watering areas. Pamphlets are being distributed to Missouri Schools, one of which is titled, "Birds". Shooting in the units is controlled by State laws, except in the refuges, where no shooting is allowed. Although this Service's primary purpose is restoration of forests, it is gratifying to know that the Forestry Service is thinking about birds as it goes about its very good work.

Don't Forget Your Winter Feeding

Though this winter has been relatively mild and is about to pass into oblivion, don't forget that the birds may need your food help. You might be interested to know that the State Conservation Commission here worked out plans whereby emergency feeding can be carried out on short notice by conservation organizations, farm clubs, youth groups, and others. The Commission's new leaflet, "Winter Feeding Shelters" is being distributed. Two already well-known pamphlets you should be acquainted with are: "Feeding Stations and Shelters for Quail on Missouri Farms" distributed by the Missouri College of Agriculture and "Feeding Wildlife in Winter" by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Quoting Mr. I. T. Bode, "This is the time of year when a man has his best opportunity to show just how much of a sportsman he is. The time for hunting most of the game species is past, but all wildlife creatures need food the year round. When it isn't available, it must be provided, or our supply of breeding stock may suffer. And every bird lost now means fewer birds for next year's crop. Don't wait until an emergency arises to offer your services in a feeding campaign. Contact your local conservation organization so the committee will have your name ready should need for feeding arise." At least, may we add, if nothing else, have a little personal committee of your own whose chief duty is - feeding the birds.

Conservation Broadcasts

A series of conservation broadcasts, sponsored by the Department of the Interior, is being aired by the Columbia Broadcasting System at 5:00 P.M. Saturdays for a 25 week period. Try KMOX, but available information we have now is that KMOX does not air the program. Try KMBC Kansas City or WBBM Chicago.

St. Louis Bird Club Pledges Cooperation

Your Board of Directors has pledged the assistance of our organization to the State Conservation Commission in whatever way it might help and has received the following reply from Mr. I. T. Bode, Director of the Commission: "This will acknowledge your letter of February 3 and thank you very much for your expression of confidence in the Commission and your willingness to cooperate in the conservation program of the state. We appreciate this very much."

The Audubon Society Acts

The Audubon Society of Missouri has made a group of suggestions to the Missouri Conservation Commission on the matter of wild life protection. We feel they are worth passing along to you for thought. If you approve, a personal plea to the Commission would be of help. Suggestions are as follows:

Killing and transporting. No person shall, within the state of Missouri, kill or catch, or have in his possession, living or dead, any wild bird other than a game bird, or purchase, offer for sale or expose for sale, transport or ship, within or without the state, any such wild bird after it has been killed or caught, except as permitted by this article. No part of the plumage, skin or body of any bird nor its eggs and nest protected by this article, shall be sold or had in possession for sale, irrespective of whether said bird was captured or killed, or eggs and nest removed while in use, which were taken within or without the state.

Game birds defined. The following only shall be considered game birds. The Anatidae, commonly known as swans, geese, brant and river and sea ducks; the Rallidae, commonly known as rails, coots and gallinules; the Scolopacidae, commonly known as shore birds, plovers, surf-birds, snipe, woodcock, sandpipers, tattlers and curlews; the Galliformes, commonly known as wild turkeys, grouse, prairie chickens, pheasants, partridges and quails; the Columbidae, commonly known as doves and pigeons; all other species of birds, either resident or migratory, or imported, shall be considered non-game birds.

Hawks and Owls - when killing is permissible: Land owners and tenants may destroy any hawk or owl while in the act of committing depredations upon their poultry or other domestic animals. (We interpret this as the only occasion hawks and owls may be killed).

Eagles. Both the Bald Eagle, national bird of America and the Golden Eagle are at all times protected.

Canaries and Parrots. Nothing shall be construed to prevent the possession and sale of live canaries and parrots.

Non-protected birds. The English or European house sparrow, crow, crow blackbird (bronzed grackle) and Starling are not included among the birds protected.

Collecting birds, nests and eggs for scientific purposes - Certificates for: The Director of the Conservation Commission may grant to a properly accredited person, twenty-one years or over, a certificate permitting him to collect or possess protected birds, their nests or eggs for strictly scientific purposes only. In order to obtain the certificate the applicant therefor shall (a) present to the Director written testimonials from two well known scientific men, certifying to the good character and fitness of the applicant to be intrusted with the privilege, (b) pay to the Commission one dollar to defray the necessary expenses attending the granting of the certificate and (c) file with the commission a properly executed bond in the sum of one-hundred dollars, signed by two responsible citizens of the state as sureties. The certificate shall be in force for one year only, from the date of its issuance, and shall not be transferable. The foregoing sections of this article shall not apply to persons holding such certificate.

Upon proof that a holder of the certificate has killed a bird or taken the nest or eggs of a bird for any purpose other than those named in this section, the bond shall be forfeited to the Commission, the certificate shall become void and the holder shall be further subject to the penalties provided therefor.

Missouri Ranks Forty-Second!

An interesting conservation article recently appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch stating that according to an inventory begun in 1937 and recently completed by the U. S. Biological Survey there are 5,000,000 game animals in the United States, 4,500,000 of which are deer. Michigan with 878,000 game animals is the first ranking state, and Pennsylvania is second with 796,000. Missouri ranks forty-second with only 700 game animals, all of which are deer! Think that figure over, Conservationists, and you might have some questions to ask our Conservation speaker.

Missouri Nature Knights

A new conservation program for Missouri boys and girls was announced recently by the Missouri Conservation Commission, its initial step being a system of activities known as the Missouri Nature Knights. Awards for good deeds to wildlife will be made. The plan has the approval of the State Superintendent of Schools, the Boy and Girl Scouts, farm club leaders and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Walt Disney has loaned the Commission some of the animals from his famous "Snow White" picture for use on a pledge card for Missouri Nature Knights who pledge - "to learn what is meant by conservation and why conservation laws are necessary - to help conserve wildlife, including birds, animals and fishes, trees and wild flowers in Missouri and elsewhere - to remember that wildlife belongs to every one, and to follow the Golden Rule".

The Commission has our compliments in recognizing that youth is the best soil for its conservation seeds.

Personal

Father George M. Link, who addressed the St. Louis Bird Club so admirably last year, has been recently appointed State Naturalist of Illinois, and is now stationed at the Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton. Our hearty welcome to the region!

Coming Events

In keeping with the plans adopted by your Board of Directors at a recent conference - to study conservation in Missouri at our next two or three meetings - our March 21st meeting will be devoted to an evening with Mr. I. T. Bode, Director of the State Wildlife Conservation Commission. We are particularly happy to offer two such capable speakers as Dr. Bennitt and Mr. Bode. Show your appreciation to them by attending our February and March meetings!

Spring bird walks, an annual St. Louis Bird Club event, will be held as usual this spring. More about them later. But here's a hint: Keep Sunday mornings in April open on your schedule. And for bird club meetings, keep the third Tuesday of each month free.

Dues

Pay your dues! The appearance of outstanding speakers at your bird club meetings entails expense. One dollar, dues for one year, 1939, entitles you to all the privileges of the St. Louis Bird Club, spring bird walks, and subscription to the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin, besides a chance to hear our best wild-life speakers - a real bargain for a dollar. Pay your dues personally at the next meeting or mail them to Miss Nell Lee Jenkinson, 4495 Pershing.

Birds of the Month

Some of our members have felt that a monthly timetable of birds expected to arrive during the month following each issue of the bulletin might be useful. Here then is your March timetable. Due to the unseasonable weather however, schedules are upset and early arrivals are in order.

Due to Leave in March

Bald Eagle (Mar. 15)
Northorn Horned Lark (Mar. 1)
Northern Shrike
Lapland Longspur (rare)
Chesnut-collared Longspur (rare)
E. Snow Bunting (rare)

Winter Residents Remaining Through March

Common Mallard
Pintail
Greater Scaup (uncommon to rare)
American Golden-eye
Old Squaw (rare)
American Merganser
American Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle (rare)
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Brown Creeper
Rusty Blackbird
Slate-colored Junco
Montana Junco (uncommon)
E. Tree Sparrow

Due to Arrive in March

Common Loon (a few)
Pied-billed Grebe (fair numbers)
Double-crested Cormorant (fair numbers)
Great Blue Heron (early vanguard)
Canada Goose (some may have wintered)
Lesser Canada Goose
White-fronted Goose
Lesser Snow Goose
Blue Goose
Black Duck (here in February)
Gadwall
Baldpate (since late Feb.)
Green-winged Teal (few in Feb.)
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveller
Wood Duck (very few may have wintered)
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck (here in Feb. too)
Canvas-back
Lesser Scaup (here in Feb. too)
Buffle-head (a very few in Feb.)
Ruddy duck (few late Feb.)
Hooded merganser
Red-breasted Merganser (rare)
Turkey Vulture
Broad-winged Hawk
Osprey
Duck Hawk
Pigeon Hawk (rare)
King Rail
Coot (some in Feb.)
Kildeer (many in Feb.)
Golden Plover
Woodcock
Wilson's Snipe (some in Feb. some may have wintered)
Upland Plover (late March)
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Pectoral Sandpiper
Baird's ~~Rend's~~ Sandpiper
Mourning Dove (few wintered)
Belted Kingfisher (few wintered)
Red-headed woodpecker (some wintered)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (some wintered)
Phoebe (latter part of March)
Tree Swallow (late March)
Purple Martin (late March)
Catbird (late March)
Brown Thrasher
Robin (wintered)
Hermit Thrush (late March)
Bluebird (some wintered)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (some wintered)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (few wintered)
E. Meadowlark (wintered in good numbers)
W. Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird (wintered)
Brewer's Blackbird
Bronzed Grackle (wintered)
Cowbird (wintered)
Purple Finch (few wintered)
Pine Siskin (some wintered)
E. Goldfinch (some wintered)
Red-eyed Towhee (some wintered)
E. Savannah Sparrow
Baird's ~~Rend's~~ Sparrow
Leconte's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
E. Field Sparrow (few wintered)
White-crowned Sparrow (wintered, perhaps)
White-throated Sparrow (some wintered)
Fox Sparrow (few wintered)
Lincoln's Sparrow (early few)
Swamp Sparrow (some wintered)
Miss. Song Sparrow (many wintered)